

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /120 W
-----090302 222205Z /70

O 221906Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5632

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

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AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

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USEEC

EUR/RPE - MC LEAN

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EEC

SUBJECT: ACP/EC ANNUAL MINISTERIAL: SETTING THE STAGE FOR
LOME II NEGOTIATIONS

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REF: (A) BRUSSELS 4812 (B) 77 BRUSSELS 4411

1. SUMMARY: AS PREDICTED REF A, THIRD SESSION OF ACP/EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (BRUSSELS, MAR. 13-14) WAS ESSENTIALLY A DAMAGE-LIMITING EXERCISE DESIGNED TO CLEAR AWAY THE UNDERBRUSH PRIOR TO OPENING NEGOTIATIONS ON LOME II IN JULY. TO FACILITATE STOCK-TAKING ON LOME I, AND TO PROVIDE AN ELEMENT OF POLITICAL ZEST FOR MINISTERS, SESSION WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS: (A) A REVIEW OF OPERATIONS UNDER VARIOUS CHAPTERS OF PRESENT CONVENTION, OFFERING ACP'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO AIR GRIEVANCES AGAINST EC PERFORMANCE; AND (B) AN INFORMAL, OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSION OF TOPICAL NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, I.E., COMMON FUND AND DEBT. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS FOR LOME II NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH ACP SIDE INDICATED RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT A CLAUSE ON PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEW CONVENTION. EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAY THEY ARE PLEASED WITH OUTCOME OF SESSION, SINCE WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE THE MEETING'S HARMONIOUS ATMOSPHERE PRESAGES FAVORABLE BEGINNING TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH ACP'S LATE THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. THIRD MEETING OF ACP-EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WAS HELD

IN ACP HOUSE, BRUSSELS, MAR. 13-14. THE MEETING WAS CO-CHAIRLED BY DENMARK'S MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFLIO OSTERGAARD, PRESIDENT-IN-OFFICE OF THE EC COUNCIL, AND FOREIGN MINISTER P.J.PATTERSON OF JAMAICA. EC COMMISSION WAS REPRESENTED BY CLAUSE CHEYSSON, COMMISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT. ON ACP SIDE, 38 MINISTERS ATTENDED (FROM 53 ACP MEMBERS); FOR EC, EIGHT INDIVIDUALS OF MINISTERIAL RANK ATTENDED, INCLUDING FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD AND UK MINISTER OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT JUDITH HART.

3. EC COMMISSION AND EC COUNCIL SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS TELL US THAT THIS YEAR, IN CONTRAST TO 1977 MINISTERIAL SESSION IN SUVA, A PREMIUM WAS PLACED ON EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION AND UTILIZATION OF MINISTERS' TIME. ACCORD-

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-----090289 222208Z /70

O 221906Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5633

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

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ING TO OUR SOURCES, THESE EFFORTS PAID DIVIDENDS IN THAT ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS WERE TAKEN EXPEDITIOUSLY (SEE PARA 4) AND TONE OF TWO-DAY DEBATE WAS REPORTEDLY CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE THROUGHOUT. WHILE ON FIRST DAY ACP REPS (TAKING A CUE FROM OPENING REMARKS OF FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON), INSISTED ON EARLY CORRECTION BY EC OF CERTAIN "DEFECTS" IN OPERATION OF PRESENT CONVENTION (DISCUSSED PARA 5 BELOW), THIS DID NOT PREVENT HARMONIOUS AND FRUITFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES BY
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MINISTERS AT LATER STAGE OF MEETING (SEE PARA 6).

4. AMONG THE IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS BY THE COUNCIL (CONCERNING THE PRESENT CONVENTION) WERE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) AGREEMENT TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE ACP-EC COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS IN BRUSSELS IN SUPERVISING DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION OF THE CONVENTION SO AS TO ENABLE THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO "CONCENTRATE ON FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL ISSUES OR QUESTIONS WHICH PRESENT SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES";

(B) AGREEMENT TO COORDINATE AND ENHANCE ADVANCE PREPARATION OF THE MAY SESSION OF THE JOINT ACP/EC PARLIAMENTARIANS COMMITTEE MEETING IN GRENADA AND OF THE LUXEMBOURG SESSION OF THE ACP/EC CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED FOR LATE 1978; AND

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O 221906Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5634

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

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(C) APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON LOME CONVENTION
OPERATIONS, COVERING THE PERIOD APRIL 1977-FEBRUARY 1978.

5. IN EXAMINING THE APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION
DURING THE TWO YEARS SINCE ITS ENTRY INTO FORCE, THE
COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING:

(A) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION
MINISTERS NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE LEVEL OF FINANCIAL
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COMMITMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BUT AGREED THAT THE
RELEVANT DISBURSEMENTS SHOULD BE ACCELERATED. THE LOME
SIGNATORIES FROM THE PACIFIC, IN PARTICULAR, WERE
CRITICAL OF DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTING MEASURES IN THIS
FIELD;

(B) TRADE

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COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /120 W
-----090334 22210Z /70

O 221906Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5635

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

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ACP STATES COMPLAINED ABOUT EROSION OF THEIR PREFERENTIAL POSITION UNDER LOME (BECAUSE OF THE COMMUNITY'S GSP) AND REQUESTED "ADEQUATE" COMPENSATORY MEASURES. WHILE THERE WAS DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON THE DIRECTION OF RECENT TRENDS IN TRADE BETWEEN THE EC AND ACP'S, THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THAT THERE SHOULD BE GREATER EMPHASIS ON TRADE PROMOTION MEASURES AFFECTING PRODUCTS FROM ACP STATES;

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(C) COMMODITY PROTOCOLS

(1) SUGAR

ACP'S COMPLAINED ABOUT EC PRICE OFFER FOR THE 1978/79 MARKETING YEAR AND EC SIDE AGREED TO "TAKE INTO

CONSIDERATION" ACPS' VIEWS IN FIXING THE GUARANTEED PRICE.
ZAMBIA'S REQUEST FOR ACCESSION TO SUGAR PROTOCOL WAS
SUPPORTED BY ACP REPS;

(2) RUM

ACP SIDE REQUESTED THAT ALL OBSTACLES TO ISSUING
LICENSES FOR IMPORTING RUM INTO THE EC BE REMOVED;

(3) BANANAS

INTER ALIA, ACP REPS, INFORMED THE COUNCIL OF STEPS NOW
BEING TAKEN TO ESTABLISH ORGANIZATIONS OF BANANA
PRODUCING STATES.

(4) OTHER

ACP'S ASKED THAT PRESENT REDUCTION OF IMPORT CHARGES ON
BEEF AND VEAL FROM CERTAIN AFRICAN STATES BE CONTINUED
UNTIL EXPIRATION OF CONVENTION IN 1980.

(D) STABEX

THERE WAS GENERAL SATISFACTION ON BOTH SIDES WITH
OPERATION OF STABEX SYSTEM; ACP'S, HOWEVER, ASKED THAT
CERTAIN NEW PRODUCTS BE INCLUDED IN THE SYSTEM, I.E.,
SESAME SEEDS, TOBACCO, SISAL PRODUCTS, CASHEW NUTS AND
SHEA NUTS;

(E) INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

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COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5636
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA
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AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
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COUNCIL REVIEWED THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CENTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE ACP STATES EMPHASIZED THEIR DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS IN FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION;

(F) MISCELLANEOUS

MINISTERS NOTED PARTICULAR SITUATION AND NEEDS OF LLDC'S AND WERE ALSO INFORMED (BY LESOTHO REP) OF "THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGGRESSION OF RHODESIA AGAINST ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA". THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO "ASSIST" THE LATTER COUNTRIES.

6. CONCERNING INFORMAL, OFF-THE-RECORD TALKS ON COMMON FUND AND LDC DEBT RELIEF, EC COMMISSION AND EC PERMDEL OFFICIALS TELL US THAT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WAS USEFUL AS A "CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING" EXERCISE BUT THAT DISCUSSIONS HAVE LITTLE OR NO OPERATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. CONSIDERABLE PART OF DISCUSSION OF THESE SUBJECTS (BY DE GUIRINGAUD AND OTHERS) REPORTEDLY WAS DEVOTED TO TRACING HISTORY OF NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, REVIEWING ACHIEVEMENTS AT CIEC, AND REHEARSING ESTABLISHED POSITIONS ON COMMON FUND AND ON DEBT. MINISTERS ON BOTH SIDES REPORTEDLY APPEALED TO "PRAGMATIC, COOPERATIVE SPIRIT" IN SEEKING "REASONABLE" SOLUTIONS TO PRESENT OBSTACLES IN NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, WHILE MINISTERS HAD LITTLE TIME TO ENTER INTO SUBSTANCE OF NEGOTIATING POSITIONS AS PRESENTED IN GENEVA, MUTUAL EDUCATIVE PROCESS WAS DEEMED TO BE WORTHWHILE EXPENDITURE OF TIME. ONE ACP REP COMMENTED TO MISSION OFFICER AFTER THE MEETING THAT THERE HAD AT LEAST BEEN AN "HONEST DIALOGUE" WITH THE COMMUNITY.

7. CONCERNING LOME II, THE ONLY CONCRETE DECISION TAKEN BY MINISTERS WAS TO AGREE ON DATE OF FORMAL, CEREMONIAL OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW CONVENTION, JULY 24, IN BRUSSELS. SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS REPORTEDLY WILL BEGIN IN OCTOBER.

8. WHILE SUBSTANCE OF LOME II WAS NOT ON AGENDA, MISSION IS TOLD THAT INFORMAL EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT WERE HELD ON THE MARGIN OF THE REGULAR MEETING. IN ADDITION, THE PRESS ATTRIBUTED TO ACP OFFICIALS SEVERAL COMMENTS OUTSIDE THE MEETING REGARDING THE EC COMMISSION'S DESIRE TO INCORPORATE A REFERENCE TO PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE NEW CONVENTION. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION AT A MARCH 14 PRESS CONFERENCE, FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON SUGGESTED

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5637

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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THAT THE ACP GROUP WOULD OPPOSE ADDITION OF NEW CHAPTERS TO THE EXISTING CONVENTION--INCLUDING A REFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS--IF PROPOSED BY THE COMMUNITY. HOWEVER, SOME OTHER ACP REPS, ACCORDING TO JOURNALISTIC ACCOUNTS, BELIEVE THAT BY BLOCKING THE COMMISSION'S HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD LOSE A POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO TURN THE TABLES ON THE COMMUNITY. THESE OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THERE IS MERIT IN ANY DECLARATION THAT WOULD ALLOW THE ACP'S TO RAISE WITH THE EC SUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTIONS AS THE TREATMENT OF ACP WORKERS IN THE EC MEMBER STATES, OR WHAT MANY ACP'S SEE AS EC-9 SUPPORT FOR RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. EVEN PATTERSON, IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT, FLAGGED THE CAUSE OF INDIVIDUALS, "WHOSE DIGNITY, AS HUMAN BEINGS, IS EVEN NOW CONSTANTLY IMPUGNED BY DAILY ACTS OF INJUSTICE ON RACIAL GROUNDS." PATTERSON CALLED UPON LOME SIGNATORIES TO GO BEYOND ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS FACING MANKIND "TO RAISE THE CONDITIONS OF MAN HIMSELF, TO RESTORE HIS DIGNITY AND SELF ESTEEM." (COMMENT: THIS EXHORTATION HAS BEEN VARIOUSLY INTERPRETED IN COMMUNITY CIRCLES: SOME HUMAN RIGHTS ENTHUSIASTS SEE IT AS AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE COMMISSION'S IDEAS IN THIS FIELD, WHILE OTHERS SEE IT AS EVIDENCE THAT THE ACP'S WOULD TURN ANY HUMAN RIGHTS LANGUAGE IN LOME II BACK ON THE COMMUNITY, WITH POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR CERTAIN EC MEMBER STATES' FINANCIAL INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. END COMMENT.)

8. COPIES OF THE COUNCIL'S FINAL COMMUNIQUE, SPEECH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE05718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780126-1112
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780339/aaaabgvq.tel
Line Count: 712
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eb70c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 13
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 4812, 77 BRUSSELS 4411
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3244339
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACP/EC ANNUAL MINISTERIAL: SETTING THE STAGE FOR LOME II NEGOTIATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: EAID, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eb70c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014